

A GENUINE
NARRATIVE
Of the MEMORABLE
LIFE *and* ACTIONS
OF
JOHN EVERETT,

Who formerly kept the COCK ALE-HOUSE
in the *Old-Bailey*; and lately the TAP in
the *Fleet-Prison*, and was Executed at
TYBURN, on *Friday* the 20th Day of
February, 1729-30.

To which is Added,

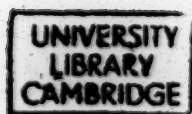
His Humble ADDRESS (by way of LETTER)
to Mrs. *Martha Ellis* and Mrs. *Manly*, whom he
Robb'd, and for which he was Condemn'd.

And likewise his LETTER to his Brother's
Master, a Chair-Maker, &c.

Written by HIMSELF when under Condemna-
tion; and in his CELL in *NEWGATE*, and
Publish'd at his own Request.

L O N D O N :

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THE
L I F E
O F
JOHN EVERET, &c.

WORKS of this Nature are most necessary to be communicated to the Publick, because 'tis by the Actions of others, the unknown Part of the Publick are improved and amended, and consequently that is the only Reason why I shou'd publish my Life and Conversation ; because in some Measure it may be to the Use of Mankind. The Truth of the Transactions, herein mentioned, are
A 2 sufficient

sufficient to recommend the Work without other Additions or Embellishments.

I was born at *Hitchin* in *Hertfordshire*, of credible Parents, my Father having, and possessed an Estate of three hundred Pounds *per Ann.* and in my Minority, I was carefully instructed in several Parts of Learning necessary to qualify me for any manner of Business. I was, when at proper Age, put Apprentice to a *Salesman*, that Business being originally intended for me, and my good indulgent Father gave to my Master, as an Apprentice Fee, 50 Guineas, besides his providing for me necessary Cloathing. But before my Time was expired, I quitted my Master, and went into *Flanders*, (being press'd) and was in the late Wars there, in several Sieges and Battles, and acquired, by a discreet Behaviour, the Love and Friendship of most of the commanding Officers; and after I so distinguished my self, I was raised to the Place of a Serjeant, in the Hon. General *How's* Regiment of Foot; and on my Return from *Flanders* into *England*, the Regiment was quarter'd at *Warcester*, and there I purchased my Discharge. On which I took a Tour up to *London*, and purchased the Place of an Officer of *White-Chapel* Court, in which Station I continued upwards of seven Years; and being of an easy and good-natur'd Disposition, in Compassion to several distressed Objects, which came in, my

my way, I took several People's Words too often, after I had arrested them, the Consequences of which obliged me to quit my Place. But being closely sued for Debts brought on me by those Misfortunes, by one *Tho. C—— orth*, a Solicitor in *White-Chapel*, who before had been seemingly my Friend, and had often advised me to some Things that did not prove very beneficial to me.

As a Shelter against Misfortune, I was obliged to list my self in the Foot-Guards, there I served some Time, in my Lord *Albemarle's* Company. I there unhappily fell into Company with one *Richard Bird*, at the above-said Mr. C—— *orths*, and after having conversed together on the Affairs of Life, and acquainting me of some particular Advantages in Life which might be had, provided I cou'd be trusted; I took the Hint readily, and in short we agreed to take to the Road, entirely confiding in each other.

We committed several Robberies, both in *Middlesex, Essex, Surrey* and *Kent*; one particular Robbery, was by us committed, on the *Dartford* Coach in *Kent*, we took from the Passengers, a Portmanteau, in which were contained, Jewels, Diamonds, Money, and other Goods of a very great Value. The *Woodford* Stage-Coach we likewise robb'd of

a Gold Watch, and some Silver, but afterwards return'd the Watch to the Owner.

Another Robbery by us committed, was on *Hounslow Heath*, on two Officers of the Army, who were well mounted, and guarded with Servants arm'd with Blunderbusses, we took their Gold Watches and Money from them, tho' they endeavour'd to resist ; but we forc'd them to submit to the well known Doctrine of *Passive Obedience*, before we quitted them ; the Watches (pursuant to a Treaty we made with them on the Spot) were afterwards left at *Young-Man's Coffee-House Charing Cross*, where the Owners had them again, on Payment of Twenty Guineas, as stipulated in the said Treaty between us.

Another Robbery by us committed, was [on 'Squire *Amlow* of *Breem's-Buildings* in *Chancery-Lane*] in *Epsom-Lane*, turning up to *Epsom*, and when he was attack'd, he drew his Sword, and made several Passes against us, as he sat in an open Chaise, but notwithstanding his Resolution in opposing us, it was of no avail, for we by force took two Guineas, a silver Watch, and his silver-hilted Sword, and some Parchment Writings of a considerable Value ; and on his Submission, and having requested his Writings, we accordingly deliver'd them up, and let him pass, and helped him to his Watch again, being in the Hands
of

of Mr. *Corkett*, a Pawn-Broker in *Hounds-Ditch*.

We also took Opportunities to rob all the Butchers and Higlers from *Epping Forest* to *Woodford*, and continued so doing for several Times, and particularly one old Woman, who wore a high-crown'd Hat of her Mother's, as she said, which Hat we took, and searched, and out of the Lining found three Pounds, and deliver'd her the Hat again. On *Aston-Common*, we also met on the said Common, two Chariots with Gentlemen and Ladies in them, and robb'd 'em in Money, Watches, and other Things to the Value of 30 l.

Soon after our last Atchievement, my old Comrade *Dick Bird* and I stopt a Coach in the Evening, on *Hounslow-beath*, in which (amongst other Passengers) were two precise but couragious Quakers, who had the Assurance to call us *Sons of Violence*; and refusing to comply with our reasonable Demands, jumpt out of the Coach to give us Battle, whereupon we began a sharp Engagement, and shew'd them the *Arm of Flesh* was too strong for the *Spirit*, which seemed to move very powerfully within them. After a short Contest, tho' we never offered to Fire, for I ever abhorr'd Barbarity or the more heinous Sin of Murther) thro' the Cowardly Persuasions of their Fellow-Travellers, they submitted, tho' fore against their Inclinations.

As they were stout Fellows and Men every Inch of them, we scorn'd to abuse them, and contented our selves with rifling them of the little Mammon of Unrighteousness which they had about them, which amounted to about thirty or forty Shillings and their Watches. The rest in the Coach, whose Hearts were sunk into their Breeches, *Dick* fleec'd without the least Resistance. There was one Circumstance of this Affair, which created a little Diversion, and therefore with my Readers leave I will relate it. The Precisians for the most part, tho' they are plain in their Dress wear the best of Commodities, and tho' a smart Toupée is an Abomination; yet a Bob or a Natural of six or seven Guineas Price is a modest Covering allow'd of by the Saints. One of the Prigs was well furnished in this particular, and flattering my self it would become me, I resolv'd to make it lawful Plunder. Without any further Ceremony therefore, than alledging Exchange was no Robbery, I napp'd his Poll, and dress'd him immediately in Masquerade with an old black Tye, which I had the Day before purchased of an antiquated *Chelsea* Pensioner for half a Crown. The other Company, tho' before in the doleful Dumps for the Loss of the Corriander Seed, could not forbear grinning at the Merry Metamorphosis; for our Quaker look'd now more like a D ——— than a Saint. As
Companions

Companions in distress ever alleviate its Weight ; they invited him with a general laugh into their Leathern Convenience again, wish'd us a good Night, and hop'd they should have no farther Molestation on the Road, we gave them a *Watch Word*, and assur'd them they should not ; then tipp'd the honest Coachman a Twelv-
 yer to drink our Healths, so brushed off the Ground.

About a Week or ten Days after, my Brother *Dick* and I projected a new Scheme, more humble than the former, to take a Purse without the Charge of Horse-hire. *Hillington Common*, was determin'd to be the Scene of Action. We sauntred for sometime upon the Green, and suffered several to pass by without the least Molestation, but at last we spy'd two Gentlemen well mounted coming towards us, who we imagin'd might be able to replenish our Empty Purses, so we prepared for an Attack, whereupon after the usual Salutation, I stop'd the Foremost and demanded his Cash, his Watch and other Appurtenances thereunto belonging ; and assur'd him I was a younger Brother of an Honourable but numerous Family ; that to work I had no Inclination, and to Beg I was asham'd ; and that since I had at present no other way for a Livelihood, if such a demand at first view might appear a little immodest or unreasonable, I hoped he would excuse it, as Necessity and not

Choice was the fatal Inducement. My Brother *Dick* was as Rhetorical in his Apologies with the Hindmost whom he dismounted. We us'd them with more good Manners and Humanity than the common Pads, who act for the most part more like *Turks* and *Jews* than *Christians* in such Interprizes, to the eternal Scandal of the *Profession*. We contented our selves with what Silver and little Gold they had about them, which amounted to about 3 or 4 Pounds, and their Gold Watches, one of which as well as I remember was of *Tompion's* make, and which I afterwards pawn'd for five Guineas to a Fellow that the Week after broke and run away with it; so that I had not the Opportunity of restoring it again to the proper Owner, for which I heartily beg his Pardon, as we must own the Gentlemen behaved well, and came into our Measures without the least Resistance, so they must do us the Justice to acknowledge that we treated them as such, and neither disrob'd nor abused them. We thought it however common Prudence to cut the Girts of their Horses Saddles, and secure their Bridles for fear of a pursuit.

Thus flushed again with Success, we made the best of our way to *Brentford*, and there took the Ferry. But Fortune, tho' she is a fair, yet she is a fickle Mistress; her Smiles are often false and very precarious. Before we
had

had got ashore, we heard the Persons had got Scent of us, and our Triumph had like to have ended in Captivity. When we were three parts over and out of Danger of drowning, told the Ferrymen our Distress, gave them ten Shillings; and obliged them to throw their Oars into the *Thames*. The agreeable reward, and the fears of being thrown in themselves in Case of a denial, made them readily comply; in we plunged after them and soon made the Shore. Tho' we look'd like *Hob* just dr, vn out of the Well, those that saw us only imagin'd, 'twas a drunken frolick. Our Expeditious flight soon dry'd our Cloaths, and without catching the least Cold, we both arrived safe that Night at *London*. We congratulated each other you may imagine on our happy and narrow Escape, and solac'd our selves after the Fatigues of the Day with a Mistress and a Bottle.

There are four other Robberies which I readily acknowledge I have committed since I left the Cock in the *Old Baily* of which I shall give the Reader a true and faithful Account in their proper Place.

At last, as the Proverb observes, *The Pitcher does not always come whole from the Well*: I was at last taken up for a Robbery, and sent to *New Prison*, where I remained confin'd three Years; and Providence, as I fancy'd in

some measure, favouring me, I had the Honour and Happiness to have a great Number of Justices to sign for me to enjoy my Liberty. During this Confinement there, I behaved my self with Prudence and great Humanity ; for which, and my experienc'd Conduct on the Road, I was promoted to the degree of Turnkey to the said Prison ; but the then Keeper dying, I quitted the Employment aforesaid, and kept the *Red Lyon*. Ale-house in *Turnmill street, Cow-Cross*, and before I could settle my self it cost me upwards of 100 l. And when a new Keeper was appointed and took Possession of the Prison, (who was the Dutcheß of *Newcastle's* Footman) he often visited me, and took Opportunities to acquaint me, that he would provide and do very handsomely for me, if I would re-assume the Place of Turnkey of his Prison, and was prevail'd upon to accept of it, and by that means I instructed him in all the Affairs concerning the said Prison; and when he was perfectly acquainted with the Secrets, Benefits and Advantages arising from the Prison, he then took Opportunity to turn me out of my Place, without any just Cause or Reason, contrary to the Agreement between us made, in order to put his Brother in my stead.

And when I was so removed, I was afterwards taken in Execution for 60 l. and brought
Prisoner

Prisoner to the *Fleet*, and gave Security to the Warden for the Liberty of the Rules, which cost me upwards of sixteen Guineas. That being done, I took the *Thistle* and *Crown* in the *Old-Bailey*, and liv'd there for some time, till I had the opportunity of a better House, and afterwards took the *Cock* in the *Old-Bailey*, there I lived for three Years, and the most noted and best of the Parish resorted my House ; that then Mr. *Bambridge* became Warden of the *Fleet*, he invited me into his Service, promising to make me Turnkey to the *Fleet*, which indeed would have been a beneficial Business ; upon which I quitted my House, and then could attain no other Station than to keep the *Fleet* Cellar or Tap-House. It was here I was drawn into the unhappy Quarrel between the Warden and Sir *William Rich*, Bart. for which the Honourable House of Commons voted me an Agent to Mr. *Bambridge* in the Commission of his Crimes, and ordered me close Prisoner to *Newgate*, where I remain'd 'till the End of the Sessions, and then obtain'd my Liberty, a Liberty which hath now prov'd fatal to me.

I had not only lost that little share of Credit and Reputation I had acquir'd since I quitted a wicked Course of Life, by being in Custody on that Scandalous Occasion, but likewise all my Stock of Goods, &c. (for during my

my Confinement, my Brewer made Seizure of my Stock of Beer, the value of 300 l. and upwards) by which Means I was entirely ruin'd and made destitute; but notwithstanding so insupportable a Misfortune, I had a strong Inclination to follow an Industrious Course of Life, without the least Intention of returning to my former ill Courses already mention'd. But at last the Importunities of the Devil, and the Difficulty of quitting evil Habits for good, Ones, soon broke thro' my poor Resolutions. And I was determin'd again for the Road, but thought it most prudent and judicious, not to join, or admit a second Person to be concern'd with me, besides 'tis by being in Confederacy with others, is the Reason, why so many Crimes of that Nature are detected, It's too evident, the Robbery for which I am now condemn'd for, was committed, as generous a one and with as much Civility and good Manners shewn to the Lady *Manly* and Daughter, as Things of that nature admits of, for the Lady was not insulted in the Style that is common to be spoke on such Occasions. I was not under the Fear or Apprehensions of being taken, altho' I was guilty, I must confess I shou'd be cautious and take the Necessary Means to preserve my Life: But the various Circumstances of this Robbery having been incerted at large in most of the publick Papers, I was inform'd by several

Butchers

Butchers of my Acquaintance that the whole Neighbourhood suspected me as concern'd in that Robbery.

At last however a certain Person who dwells in the Neighbourhood of *Newgate Market*, resolved to ruine me, if possible, and without any legal Warrant, Power or Authority, whatsoever to secure me, clandestinely procured several other Confederates to assist him, and effected by stratagem what he dreaded to attempt by open Force. A generous Enemy may be guarded against, but there is no Avoiding the treacherous Designs of a perfidious Friend. In order to accomplish this his Scheme he sent for me to the *Red Hart* in *Fore-street* by a special Messenger under the specious pretence of Business of the utmost Importance, I went to him, and to be let into the Weighty Secret. Soon after I had entered the Passage of the Ale-house which is long and dark, the lurking Person, struck at me with a Dagger which he had concealed in his Bosom, but by more Accident than Art I ward-ed off the Blow; and as any Man of the least Courage or Resolution would in the like Case, clos'd him and seized him by the Throat, But whilst I was thus warmly engaged with an arm'd Antagonist in my own Defence, and with one whom I could not see, Two of his Associates

Associates barbarously with Bludgeons fell'd me to the Ground and then secured me.

After this Transaction our Swordsman took to his Heels ; for he was -afraid to see me in the Light, tho' over-powered, and trembled at the very Apprehensions of my Fury and just Resentment.

This Person likewise in order to hasten my End, as soon as I was thus taken into Custody, made it his Business to find out Mr. *Manly*, whose Lady had been robb'd, in order to give him Information of my being secured, and inform'd the Lady that I was the very Man that robb'd her. Upon this the Lady attended by Mr. *Manley* and a Friend or two of his Acquaintance soon after visited me, in order to recollect my Features if she could, and fix the Fact upon me. As she viewed me wishfully, she thought, as she then said, there was a great resemblance, and said, I believe you to be the Man.

Triumphant now, he publicly insults me, and doubts not but by my speedy Execution, as he has boasted with pleasure in the hearing of several, to be put into the peaceable Possession of a large Purse of Guineas. Yet in order to ingratiate himself, and gain the good Opinion of his Friends and Neighbours, he vows he has no regard to private Interest, but
like

like a true Patriot, has his whole Eye on the good of the Publick ; that 'tis the Opinion of every honest Man, that Restitution should be made to such as have been injur'd, and that it is as Meritorious to bring such a Notorious Malefactor as me to condign Punishment, as for a *Roman Bigot* to shed the Blood of an *Heretick* ; but as I must not pretend to be the Judge in my own Cause, I refer my unhappy Fate to the serious Consideration of all my unprejudiced Readers.

This Person still further to aggravate my Sorrows and render my Character more odious to the World, Endeavours to asperse my Friends, and Asserts (in order to confirm the Truth of his Allegations) that Mr. *Cary* lent me two Guineas to purchase Pistols, and other Accoutrements to qualify me, for the Profession of which I stand convicted, and that he engaged for the Hire of the Horse on which I committed the Fact. But as I am shortly to Answer for all my past Transactions to an offended God, I solemnly declare, (in justice to injured Innocence, that this Scandalous insinuation is false and groundless ; however if the World will not regard my Words, tho' a dying Man ; yet this I hope, his Character is so well established amongst the better Sort of Mankind, to be shaken or destroyed by such flagrant Misrepresentations.

This most inveterate Person does not stop even here; but to make the measure of my Affliction more compleat, endeavours to insinuate that my Wife was Conscious of my Crimes, and join'd with Others to secure me; but I here solemnly declare that she never was in the least conscious of my private and unwarrantable Actions, much less guilty of the Commission of them with me; neither have I the least Jealously of her Perfidiousness towards me, and that I should be unjust to her to the last degree, should I entertain so mean a Thought of her Conduct.

The following Robberies I committed since I left the Cock Ale-House in the Old Baily.

I determined once more to take up my old Profession, and Equipt my self; accordingly, I purchased therefore a Nag that would fly like a Hare, and leap like a Grey-hound. My next Purchase was a brace of Pistols, a Hanger, a red Rug Coat, and a new Hat with a smart Cock and a Silver Edging: Tho' I made all these necessary Preparations, they were contrary to my natural Inclinations, but Necessity has no Law, I found I must turn out once more, tho' I had quitted that Vocation some Years. What will not a Man do that has any Spirit, to support his Credit and Reputation amongst his Neighbours. Honestly I have

have heard, is the best Policy, but that would not supply me with fifty Pounds upon a Pinch, and that was the Sum I wanted. I resolv'd within my self (as I am a dying Man) that if I could but collect the Sum before mentioned by the generous Contributions of a few mornied Men, that I thought proper to apply to as I met them on the Road, I would for ever after quit the Post of Suveyor of his Majesty's High-ways without a proper Licence. The Reason why I wanted no more than 50 Pound was, because I could with that Money have Credit of my Brewer to the Tune of 100*l*. or more, and be furnished with right sound Nappy.

Tho' this was the Scheme I had laid, I never was so happy as to accomplish it, all my Rents which I gathered up, falling vastly short of the Sum proposed. If my Readers will but allow there may be Generosity and Humanity to be found among Gentlemen of our *Profession*, I think I may lay as fair a Claim to those two good qualities as ever any one that followed the *Calling*: I think my Deportment in the Robbery of which I stand convicted, and for which I am to suffer, will be an undeniable instance in that particular.

The fatal Attack I then made was on a Gentleman's Charriot, in which were a Lady

and her Daughter, accompanied with a Child of about 5 or 6 Years Old. As soon as I clapp'd my Pistol into the Charriot, the young Child was frightned, and began to cry, which gave me some uneasiness; the Lady beg'd *that I would put my Pistol up to pacify the Child, and she would readily deliver all she had about her.* I comply'd with her Request, and she gave me I Remember a Guinea and some Silver, and whilst I receiv'd it, my Hand shook like an old Fellows with the Palsy, and like a Clumsy awkward Fool, I let some of the Silver drop on the Ground; at the very same time I saw she was as well provided with a Gold Watch, Gold Rings and other valuable Trinkets as a Gentleman under my Circumstances, could reasonably have wish'd to meet with; yet like a modest Fellow, and a Gentleman of Good Manners I took my leave without asking any farther favours, than what she had readily granted me.

I had like to have forgot one Circumstance relating to this Affair, which I think worth Observing. As soon as I had quitted the Charriot and set Spurs to my Horse, up came the Lady's Husband, and *Misses Sweetheart* (I presume) to them, who upon Information of this Transaction, rode to overtake me and pursued me closely into the very Town, but they

they lost their Scent at last, and turn'd up *Leather Lane* whilst I was got into *Hatton Garden*. At the *Globe Tavern* I alighted and ordered the Drawer to call me a Porter, and whilst I was refreshing my self with a Glass of *Canary* I saw both the Gentlemen pass by the Door. I considered that was no resting Place long for me, so paid a Hog, and adjourned to a *blind Publick House* in *Holbourn*; there I call'd for a Quartern and before I had well tofs'd it off, I saw them once more looking for *a Needle in a Bottle of Hay*; I laugh'd in my Sleeve you may imagine, with the agreeable Reflection, that I was as safe as a *Thief in a Mill*: I thought my self Snug there, so I call'd for a Tankard, and smoak'd a sober Pipe to cool me after my Hurry and Fatigue.

Then I call'd a Coach at the End of *Brook-street* in *Holbourn*, and bid him drive me a little beyond *Newgate-Market*, and then stop, which he did, then I called to him, and bid him drive me to *Milk-street*, and there he set me down; then I went to *Honey-lane Market*, and bought a Hen, Turkey and a Duck, which Duck I dress'd for my Wife's Supper and my own. The Turkey was preserved for our *Christmas-Dinner*, both which I may thank the Lady for. When taken by the aforesaid Person and his Associates, I desired them not to pull me and hawl me about
to

to raise a Mobb, for I would go very quietly ; they carried me I think to the *Two-Brewers* Ale-house and search'd me, and took from me a Pistol and a Powder-Horn, and six Bullets ; in the Hurry they miss'd one Pistol having two, which I was very well pleased with ; I had not been long, but I must be for going before a Justice of the Peace ; so it was consulted which way was the most safest to go ; it was at last agreed to get a Penny Cord to tye a Cross my Arms which accordingly was done ; a going along supported by two Persons, one under one Arm, and another under the other ; and a very good Attendance besides ; as we went, I complain'd they had ty'd my Arms so very hard that I could not possibly bear it, they so far indulg'd me that they loosned them ; when done I got my Hand privately as possibly I could to that Pocket where the Pistol was, and just as I had cock'd it, my Design was to have shot that Person which does not live far from *Newgate* Market ; but he must thank the other Person, who had me by the other Arm for claping his Hand upon mine, and taking the Pistol from me, who said, *what are you at.*

The next Day after I had committed this Robbery, it was blown all over *Newgate* Market by one *Whitaker*, well known by the Title of the *Boxing Drover*, at a Coffee-house there kept by a *Butcher*, who address'd him

in the following Manner. *What do you think Master, Daddy Everett they say, Yesterday committed a Robbery on the Highway, and the whole Town rings on't. He had not been five Minutes gone away to spread the News, (and ill News spreads fast enough in Conscience) but I came into the Coffee House my self. The Master and I was old Cronies, Egad (says he) Jack I am heartily glad to see you, and wish a flying Report, that Whitaker is very busy in spreading over the Neighbourhood, may not prove of very ill Consequence to you ;* so told me the Charge that was Fathered upon me, I own I was damnably nettled, and swore (God forgive me) a good round Hand, and vow'd to be revenged on *Whitaker* for an Officious Fool, for endeavouring to blast the Character of one who had never offended him.

This was not only the Result of a hasty Passion, but I was resolutely bent upon the Execution. Whereupon the next Evening between 4 and 5, I charg'd a brace of Pistols with Powder and Ball, and march'd up to *Islington*, to examine all his *Haunts*, being well acquainted with all his private *Sot-holes and Places of Resort*. I heard of him at several Ale-houses, but (as I then thought) unfortunately miss'd of him, which now I am glad of, since I have not now the Sin of Murder
to

to Answer for, which I then had in my Heart, for which wicked Intention I beg God and his Pardon, and hope to find forgiveness from them both.

When I was first taken and committed to *Newgate*, there was a Report, that got soon a Place in the publick Papers, that I had boldly asserted that the *Gallows was not yet built that I was to be hanged on*. This in a sort of abravado, and as a hint of my being Innocent it is Possible I might say, or something to that, or the like Effect. But there was another Insinuation at the same time, which was as false and groundless as the other was true, which was that I had taken some Poisonous Preparation to save *Jack Catch* the Labour of exalting me above my Brothers. But this as I am a dying Man I declare is a scandalous Aspersion, and if I must die, tho' my Death be never so ignominious, I never had a thought of committing the most unnatural, the most cowardly Crime, and be my own infamous Executioner. The illness that at that Time attended me, and which was the Occasion of that Rumour, was in fact the Goal Distemper. Just at that juncture a certain *Butcher Woman* paid me a Visit, which I imagin'd at first, was the Effect of her Friendship and Concern for me; but to my Disappointment I found it quite the Reverse :

As I was very much out of Order I confess the Approbrious Language she gave me (and her Tongue was well vers'd in the Terms peculiar to *Billingsgate*) ruffled my Temper so far that (though I bore with her impertinence a long Time with tollerable Patience) I threw a Glas of Punch into her Face and d — d her for an everlasting Scold; for which indecent Action I heartily beg her Pardon, as I likewise do of every Person whom I have any ways offended in Thought, Word, or Deed.

There was one Assignment which I had made with a certain Widow, not far from *Newgate*; in the Prosecution of which I ran the hazard of my Life, and made good the old Proverb, *that Sweet meat has commonly sower Sauce*. The Relation of this Adventure at large may perhaps prove as an agreeable Amusement as any other Circumstance of my irregular Life, and must be I think some Demonstration to my Readers that I was something of a Politician, that understood *Trap*, and could in Love Affairs make the best Market.

Our first Acquaintance commenc'd soon after the decease of her Husband, who had taken care to leave a Comfortable Subsistence behind him, for herself and Children; so I

D

went

went amongst the rest to comfort her under her Misfortunes. I said all the agreeable Things to her I could on such Occasion; and after sometime perceiving she was not so disconsolate on her Loss, as to be frantick and gallop after him into the Grave, I look'd with a languishing Eye upon her, and whisper'd in her Ear, *that the best way to make amends for the Loss of one Bedfellow, was to supply herself as soon as conveniently she could with another.* In short I found her Coming-kind, and Our short Acquaintance soon grew into Intimacy, and our Intimacy into a Familiar Conversation.

We carry'd on our Amours with some discretion for some Time, and I help'd off with two Thirds of her Income. One of her Sons at last, tho' but a *Clod-pole* had his Eyes in his Head, and began to smell a Rat: Upon which, I turn'd her off for some Time, and got an Evenings Conversation only now and then by stealth.

As yet there was no open War declar'd between my Son-in-Law as I may call him, and me; but he took the freedom with his Mother to Censure her Conduct, and told her with some warmth, he suspected that her Correspondence with me would end at last in both their Ruine.

He

He watch'd us both as a Cat does a Mouse; however we ventur'd upon an Assignment one Evening to comfort our Souls, over a chearful Bottle, at a certain Tavern not far from *Newgate*. We had determin'd likewise, as my Widow like the old Coachman, lov'd the smack of the Whip, take one *Rubbers at Push-pin*.

How the Fool got Information of this Love Project I cannot to this Hour devise; but doubtless no Friend of ours drove it into his empty Noddle. We had not tols'd off above a Pint but up comes this Undutiful young Rascal, to our mutual surprize, full of Resentment, and without the least regard to decency or good Manners towards his Mother, vow'd to be reveng'd, and arm'd with a large Case-knife wetted on purpose as sharp as a *Cooks* at my Lord Mayor's Feast, swore he wou'd let out my Hearts-blood.

I was startled you may imagine at such an unexpected interuption of our Amours, and stood immediately upon my Guard. Tho' Fools have Courage enough sometimes, I had more Strength, as well as Art, than my Antagonist, and soon disarm'd him. However when I found all was pretty safe, being conscious I was the Aggressor, I scorn'd to take

the Advantage of my good Success, and to *Mill* him for his Insolence ; but began to argue with him on the Injustice of his Resentment. I begg'd him to be quiet, and assur'd him I had a greater Respect for his Mother and him too, than to injure either of them. He pretty smartly reply'd, That I was a Lyar. For I had help'd his Mother to spend the best Part of her Substance, left by his Father, for her Support and his, and that he plainly saw he should inevitably be undone by their mutual Extravagance.

This Reflection, tho' it nettled me, I knew was but too just and true ; so I exercis'd my Talent of Patience and Forbearance, and like a good-natur'd Fellow freely forgave him, as I presum'd it was only the Result of a jealous Fit, and an ill-grounded Passion.

I brought him at last, by my easy Deportment and good Conduct, to be a little cool, and hearken to Reason : But, as I had a Design to wheedle some Money out of my Widow that Night, (who took all for Gospel whatever I said to her, and regarded my Word more than her late Husband's Oath) I beat my Brains for a Project to get rid of my troublesome young Puppy.

To endeavour it by foul Means, would have blown my Spark up into a Flame again, and
been

been inconsistent with my former Request of an amicable Accommodation. I determin'd therefore still to *Clark* him over, to sooth him into a good Humour, and to ply him close with Liquor till I made him *Boozy*, which I thought was no difficult Matter, as his Head was always adled.

Accordingly I address'd him in a very, sociable Manner, *Prithee, Will*, said I, *why should you and I fall out ; your Mother and I never disagreed in all our Lives ; sit down, take thy Glass, smoke thy Pipe, and be good Company. If I have any ways offended you in Word or Deed, I'll beg your Pardon with all my Heart.*

All this one would think might pacify any reasonable Person ; but he still grumbled in his Gizzard, and mutter'd out, *No, Mr. Everett, I'll neither drink nor smoak with such a Person as you are ; for I shall never forget what you were pleased to say, when you was committed to Newgate with Mr. Bambridge, that you should live to see me hang'd.*

Come, come, said I, *(still cool and patient) I own 'twas an indecent Expression, and only spoke in the heat of Passion. I heartily beg your Pardon, and as you profess your self a Christian, Will, you should forget and forgive.*

In short by my good Conduct, and the Interposition of a pacifying Word now and then of his Mothers, I prevail'd at last on my young boisterous Booby to sit down and be easy.

I did n't doubt now, but my Project would prove successful, and by plying him close with Bumper after Bumper, and a little forc'd Mirth, I soon made him as drunk as a *Swab*. In a Quarter of an Hour he slept like a Top, and snor'd louder than the Fall of *London-Bridge* at Low-Water. Upon this I rang the Bell, without any danger of interrupting his golden Slumbers, and order'd the Drawer to call a Coach, which the Fellow did accordingly with all the Expedition I could wish ; upon which I discharg'd the Reckoning, tipp'd him a *Tester*, and gave him strict Orders to let my Companion take his Nap out.

Hereupon I hugg'd my Dear Widow under my Arm, handed her into the Coach, and away we jogg'd to a distant *Boozing-Ken* to conclude our Amours, which had been so unhappily interrupted. I play'd the Part of a Gallant so well that Night, that 'twas not in her Power to have deny'd me her Heart had I request'd it: But I had the Modesty and good Conscience only to beg the favour of her
to

to lend me seven Guineas for a Week, and I'd pay her as punctually as a Gamester does a Debt of Honour. She open'd her Purse-strings at the first Word, and laid me down the *Yellows* ; then with a wanton Leer, and a luscious Buss, *Dear Jacky*, said she, *you know I can deny you nothing.*

Thus after a Storm comes a Calm, and Safety after Danger. In the Morning I brush'd Home with my Nest of Goldfinches, and never thought of returning them any more from that Day to this; for which Act of Ingratitude I hope God, the Widow, and her Son, will all forgive me.

The foregoing Mrs. *W*—! I was lawfully married to, at *Stepney Church*, and was that Day put in Possession, not only of her Person, but likewise in Money and Plate of a considerable Value, and might to this Day been very happy together, if I had took her Advice; but I was of a roving Disposition, and of an unsettled Mind, that I took all Opportunities to satisfy my own Inclinations, altho' I knew it was contrary to an honest Man; and at the End I thought it would drive me to the unhappy Circumstances which I at this Time lay under: It is some Satisfaction to me, before I depart this wicked World, that she is now at this Time in a way (that I pray God) that

that she may get a handsome Competence to support her and hers ; for I can speak it by fatal Experience, *Necessity* was the chief Motive that made me *Turn out* again ; which, as I am a Dying Man, I had no Thought ever to commit any more Robberies on the Highway, if I could but have been once more put in any way to have got a Livelihood.

A Day or two before the Dead-warrant came down, I happen'd to see in the *Press-Yard*, *William W—l*, (the Son of that unfortunate Woman) as I sat in the Tap-House, with one of my Wives, drinking, (God forgive me, I had two or three) his Mother being one, as I told you before ; and this which I lived last with, I was married to at the *Fleet*, and one more which keeps a Publick-House in *Drury-Lane*, whom I think is very unkind, for she never came to see me all the Time of my Confinement : But to return to the foregoing Person, I was resolv'd to be reveng'd on him if possible, for I could not forget how he came to the Tavern with a Case-knife to kill me, and likewise the ill Usage to his Mother ; I happen'd at that Time to have a Penknife in my Pocket, and with a Resolution to have done his Business, (which God forgive me) but was prevented by my Wife, who stood between him and me, and am glad now to my
Soul

Soul that I did not commit what I did design,
which was Murder.

There is one thing however which lies heavier on my Conscience than Falshood in Love, and that is *wilful Perjury*.

I had some time since entertain'd an implacable Hatred against one *Picket a Cooper*, and to satiate my Revenge, tho' the poor Man, I believe was entirely innocent of the Fact laid to his Charge, I swore it upon him, and appear'd an Evidence against him at the *Old-Bailey*; for which flagrant Crime, I hope, if he's living he'll forgive me, and God too for my thirsting after innocent Blood; and if dead, I sincerely rejoyce that he didn't fall a Sacrifice to my unjust Resentments.

I should, in my foregoing Account, inform you what became of my *Fellow-Man, Richard Bird*; the last Robbery that he and I committed together, was on two Gentlemen as they were going to *Chelmsford*; some small Time after that I was taken up, and what to do, I did not know; at last I thought I had better Hang Twenty, than be *Squeez'd* my self; for I knew I deserv'd it; so at last (with some Reluctancy) I impeaches my *Fellow-Man, Richard Bird*, and accordingly he was taken, and committed to Goal, and afterwards carried
E down

down to *Chelmsford*, and I was carried there as a Witness against him ; but in going down I did my endeavour to make my Escape, but was prevented by one *William W—l*, the foregoing Person, who went about 3 Months ago to stab me with a Case-knife, which I related before : I was brought safe to *Chelmsford-Goal*, where I appear'd as an Evidence against my *Fellow-Man*, *Richard Bird*, a Butcher, and was capitally convicted, and suffer'd accordingly ; for which wicked Act I have often reflected on my self, for being an Evidence. All my wicked Actions, which I have been guilty of to Mankind, I heartily ask Pardon for, and I hope they'll be such good Christians as to forgive me : I acknowledge my self to be a very wicked Liver for Years past.

The following Robberies I committed some small Time before I was taken up.

One *Saturday* Night I robbed a Hackney Coach in which was only one Woman, whom I treated I think I may say with abundance of good Manners, and Humanity, for tho' she had but eight Shillings and a Pocket-piece about her, I return'd her three Shillings back again, as a valuable Consideration for her Pocket-piece. It's possible I might have a good Bargaine enough 'tis true, but my Readers must acknowlege I Might have had it three Shillings

Shillings cheaper had I had as little Conscience as some of my Brother Professors.

I shewed the like Complaisance to another *Hack* that I stopt at *Shoreditch* in which were two Gentlewomen. They both quietly delivered me their Purfes, in one was about six or seven Shillings, in the other half a Guinea, and three Shillings and six Pence ; after I had made this thorough Examination, I wish'd them a good Night, and gave them their green Purfes again. I advised them, if they were coming Kind, to make the next Chapman pay double Fees, and make themselves Restitution, 'twould be but one Robbery for another.

I made another Attack about *Pancras*. I furnish'd my self there, with a new *Tatler*, two Pocket-pieces, and about thirteen Shillings in Silver. The Gentleman rid rusty a little at first, but I soon brought him down, made him gentle as a Lamb, and rode off Triumphant. Since I have been under Sentence he oblig'd me with a Visit, and I in gratitude for the Favour, acquainted him that I had put the Time of the Day upon his Watch, and if he'd wait on an old Usurious Dog of a Broker in *Monmouth Street*, for a moderate Premium he might mount himself again.

My next Exploit was in *Frog-lane* going to *Hampstead*. I there stopp'd two Horesemen, who delivered me their Watches and about 20 s. These are all the Robberies I committed since I left the *Cock Ale-house*, fatal Necessity and not Choice was the only Motive to such dangerous, as well as illegal Attempts. I beg leave in the last Place to do justice to my dear, loving and dutiful Wife, and solemnly declare as I am now at the brink of Death, that she never was conscious of any of my ill Practices, and ever did, and has done since my Confinement behaved herself as the most indulgent of Women.

The following LETTER was sent by me to the Ladies whom I robb'd, and for which Fact I am to suffer, which is as follows, *viz.*

M A D A M,

I Grave Leave with all Humility and Respect, to address you and Madam Ellis, and with the utmost Submission and Concern, do humbly beg both your Pardons for the Fear and Surprise my Misfortunes, reduced me, to put you and the Children into, whose Cries moved so much Compassion in me, that I had not power to pursue, with any Rigour, my desperate Design, which your Ladyship must have perceived by the Consternation I was struck into on a sudden. My sole Intention was, if I could have got 50 l. to settle

settle my self in a Publick-House, and to take up an honest Course of Life, and do own at best it is a very heinous Crime : Tet, Madam, you will recollect after what Manner I treated you, and at the same time consider the Methods taken by others on the like Occasion. This Necessity I was drove to, by adhering to a certain Master I lately served, and to obey his unlawful Commands, in following his wicked and pernicious Counsels, brought me to Poverty, and consequently to this unhappy State I now labour under, and was become almost as much as himself the Scorn and Hatred of Mankind. I say, Madam, if you will be so good as to consider all these unhappy Circumstances, and that Necessity admits of no Contradiction, will, I am persuaded, inspire Compassion in generous Souls (a Character you both deservedly bear) and as a fellow Creature, I beg Mercy at your Ladyship's Hands, by signing a Petition to the Recorder for me, to the end he may be induced to make a favourable Report, and thereby move his most sacred Majesty to Clemency, by mitigating the Sentence to some other Corporal Punishment, and shall dedicate the rest of my Days in praying for both your Happiness and Prosperity in this World, and eternal Felicity and Bliss in that to come ; and crave Leave with due Difference and Respect, Madam, to subscribe my self,

Your Ladyship's most Devoted,

Afflicted Humble Servant,

JOHN EVERETT.

The following LETTER I sent to Mr. Martin
(my Brother's Master) a Chair-Maker, the
Corner of the Postern facing Grub-street.

Dear Sir,

I Beg the Favour to know whether my Brother
is living or dead ; for I have never heard
from him, which is a barbarous vile Action, to
have two Brothers, and see none. I beg to
Night, when you pay him, to stop something for
me, and make him asham'd, if such a thing
can be. Here I lie Cast for my Life, perishing
in the Cells for want of Friends. Brothers !
oh Brothers ! God forgive him and all the
World. I hope you will pardon and excuse my
Boldness ; it is Necessity makes me send to him,

S I R,

From your Unhappy,

And Misfortunate Friend,

From the Cells
in Newgate.

JOHN EVERETT.

I return my most hearty and sincere Thanks
to that Worthy and Reverend Divine Mr. Ni-
cholson of St. Sepulchre's, who was so good
as to come several Times to pray by me, and
the

the rest of my Fellow-Sufferers, in the Cells; his Discourse being edifying and so good, and well adapted to our unhappy Circumstances, that it had such Effect as drew Tears from some of us, particularly one of the *Roger's*. If his Majesty, out of his wonted Goodness, had pardon'd me for Transportation, I solemnly declare, I should rather chuse to be hang'd, than be transported.

I desire all Persons, who reads this Narrative, to take Warning by my untimely End, and to take particular Care to avoid bad Company, especially the Company of wicked Strumpets, who brings many a Man to an ignominious Death, to support them in their vicious Ways of Life ; for they often are the Cause of many a brave Fellow to *Turn-out*, altho' very much against their own Inclinations. I could instance a great many, but it will swell this Narrative to too large a Bulk.

I thought it proper to write my own Life, lest the Publick should be imposed upon, by Narratives, that might be altogether Untrue, and the idle Imaginations only of some Members of the Grubstreet Society, and in Justice to Mr. APPLEBEE, I have here under set my Hand,

J. Everett.

F I N I S.

